

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049296

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049296

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS PARIS ROME TEL AVIV FROM
LONDON 15 MAR 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03095

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS MEETING, MARCH 12

REF: BRUSSELS 1381, ROME 1849

1. FCO' S CRAIG, WHO REPRESENTED UK AT THE MEETING, TOLD
US SPECIFIC ITALIAN PROPOSAL WAS THAT EUROPEANS CALL ON
ISRAEL TO ANNOUNCE IT HAS NO DESIRE TO ANNEX EGYPTIAN
TERRITORY. ITALIANS FELT THIS WOULD CONSIDERABLY ASSIST
NEGOTIATIONS.

2. CRAIG' S REACTION WAS THAT THIS IS OLD IDEA TRIED OUT
ON ISRAELIS AT FREQUENT INTERVALS BY BRITISH THEMSELVES.
HE THOUGHT ITALIAN IDEA HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN, AND THAT
FONSEC DOUGLAS- HOME LIKELY TO REACT IN SIMILAR WAY IF
FONMIN MEDICI RAISES SUGGESTION AT MINISTERIAL MEETING
MARCH 16.

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PAGE 02 STATE 049296

3. CRAIG EXPRESSED SAME "DEJA VU" REACTION TO SUGGESTIONS AT MEETING THAT HMG AND OTHERS APPROACH USG. HE SAID USG KNOWS WHAT IS INVOLVED AT LEAST AS WELL AS EUROPEANS. USG HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF BRITISH VIEWS. HE COULD NOT SEE WHAT MORE HMG CAN DO.

4. ACCORDING TO CRAIG, FRENCH PLAYED CAGEY GAME THROUGHOUT, BEING CAREFUL NOT TO EXPOSE THEMSELVES TOO MUCH IN ANY DIRECTION.

5. COMMENT: WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR FACTUALNESS OF THIS VERSION WHICH DIFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM PARA 5 OF BRUSSELS REFTEL. CRAIG TENDS TO BE SUBJECTIVE IN HIS JUDGMENTS AND CAN OCCASIONALLY MISLEAD.

ANNENBERG UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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